

about the safety of the proposed plan have not yet been satisfactorily addressed. Therefore it is premature to hold a hearing whose ultimate object is the recommendation of the site.

Many concerns remain about the ability of Yucca Mountain to contain the nuclear waste without allowing it to leak and contaminate the surrounding environment and the groundwater on which the residents of Amargosa Valley depend. Also, the DOE has not come up with a safe transportation scenario. The proposed plan to transport radioactive waste through 43 states by truck or train, is quite frankly, a frightening one to the citizen. The casks that will be used have not been subjected to full physical testing and the computer-module testing to which they have been subjected do not represent real-life scenarios. A nuclear accident could leave a 42-square-mile area contaminated for a year or more, and most communities do not have the equipment and personnel to deal with such a serious incident. Even when no accidents occur, people living along the routes will be exposed to low levels of radiation.

I urge the DOE to postpone the hearings in order to allow time for these concerns to be addressed, to extend the public comment period, and in order to give the public more notice and allow adequate public participation. Whenever you hold the hearings, please give adequate time and fair consideration to the vast network of citizens' groups opposed to the project. Please allow any written or oral testimony that these groups attempt to submit and allow them the time they need to make their case. Finally, I hope that the DOE will ultimately decide against recommending Yucca as a nuclear waste storage site, as sound science gives indication that the project would pose unnecessary threats to public safety.

Sincerely,

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